

**Township of Marlboro**  
**Bureau of Fire Prevention**  
**1979 Township Drive, Marlboro, New Jersey 07746**  
**(732) 536-0200 Ext. 254 / Fax. (732) 536-9799)**

**Fireworks Bulletin**

**This is the time of year that “FIREWORKS” become the hazard of the day.**

Fireworks are very pretty and exciting to watch and they help us celebrate Independence Day. They are also very dangerous and illegal when set-off by individuals in their backyard parties. Fireworks are often displayed by municipalities and organizations during the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend for the enjoyment of their citizens. They are legally displayed in a safe and controlled manner. The following fact sheet that is annually collected by the National Fire Prevention Association, points out the devastating cost in deaths, injuries, and property damage caused by uncontrolled fireworks:

**Fireworks**

**Size of the Fireworks Problem**

On Independence Day in a typical year, more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for half of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

- In 2006, fireworks caused an estimated **32,600 reported fires**, including **1,800** total structure fires and **600** vehicle fires.
- These fires resulted in an estimated **6 civilian deaths, 70 civilian injuries and \$34 million** in direct property damage.

**Characteristics of Fireworks Injuries**

In 2007, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated **9,800** people for fireworks related injuries.

- **56%** of 2007 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and **36%** were to the head.
- **49%** of the 2007 fireworks injuries were burns, while **29%** were contusions and lacerations.
- **42% of the people injured by fireworks were under the age of 15.**
- **The risk of fireworks injury was two-and-a-half times as high for children ages 5-9 or 10-14 as for the general population.**
- Sparklers, fountains, and novelties alone accounted for **36%** of the emergency room fireworks injuries in 2007.

### **Risk of Private Fireworks Use**

The risk of fire death relative to time used shows fireworks as the riskiest consumer product.

- The risk that someone will die from fire when fireworks are being used is higher relative to exposure time than the risk of fire death when a cigarette is being smoked.
- “**Safe and sane**” fireworks are neither. Fireworks and sparklers are designed to explode or throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200°F.

***NFPA encourages people to enjoy public displays of fireworks that comply with NFPA 1123. NFPA is strongly opposed to any consumer use of fireworks.***

***Independents Day weekend is a time for family fun, please don't allow tragedy to become part of the celebration. Remember, it is our children that are most often injured. New Jersey has banned access by the public to all fireworks. Public use of Fireworks is illegal.***

***Respectfully***

***John Higginson, Fire Official***